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4-H CLUB WORK TODAY 26 1939 ☆

Broadcast by Gertrude L. Warren, Extension Service, Saturday, May 6, 1939, in the 4-H Club program, National Farm and Home Hour, over a network of 104 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

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All who have had a part in the development of the 4-H movement may well feel a justifiable pride in its growth in the past 25 years. Some present leaders were in at the beginning. All have had a part in shaping its destinies, developing its ideals, and building it up to its present membership of over a million and a quarter rural youth. Within this relatively short time, 4-H Club work has won for itself the endorsement of the entire United States and is being studied and promoted in many lands beyond the seas.

The 4-H Clubs of the United States is the largest rural youth organization in the world today. Moreover, it includes 250,000 older youth between the ages of 16 and 20 - the largest number of that age group in such an organization. Much of this growth is due not only to the sound principles upon which the work was based in the beginning, but also to the many splendid contributions to the program since then. 4-H Club work has become increasingly centered in the home. Young people have learned to face real life situations there and in the local community alongside their parents and neighbors. This has resulted in the development of a family solidarity - yes, and a community solidarity often unknown previously. From a small range of farm and home activities such as the growing of corn, pigs and cotton by the boys, and the growing of tomatoes and canning by the girls, farm young people are now, through their 4-H Club work, engaged in almost every known farm or homemaking enterprise in keeping with the needs and interests of the local community. In doing these worthwhile things in farming or homemaking, the lives of these fine, upstanding young people have been materially enriched through the introduction of recreation, music, art, and other cultural activities into the regular 4-H programs.

The health phases have made every 4-H Club member conscious of the importance of health to himself and to his community and have enabled him to become physically fit and mentally alert. Through the years young people have learned to appreciate as never before the open country and their own particular environment due to nature study at camps, forestry and conservation projects, and such activities as hikes, tours, and trips by which intelligent comparisons have been developed.

The training given young people in the democratic way of life through 4-H Club work has attracted wide-spread attention. In developing their own programs, setting their own goals, and sharing responsibilities, 4-H young people have learned to respect each other's opinions, to play and to work together happily. Even the informal 4-H meetings in the homes or in the fields, have had an important part in helping young people to become socially adjusted as young citizens of rural America.

The part that the older group of young people play in 4-H is becoming increasingly significant. Each year, they are assuming more responsibility for various phases of the program and are taking a special interest in rendering service in their own communities and learning to discuss world affairs in relation to agriculture and their own part in it. These 4-H members are taking their

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places in the general life of the community. Reports show that some are respected farmers often with a substantial business, some are in the professions, and some are serving in legislative halls, on state agricultural boards, county fair boards, county land-use planning committees, and various cooperative enterprises. It can truly be said that from a small beginning in some farm or home activity 4-H Club work today plays an important part in helping young people to become active, upstanding citizens able to face real life situations and to solve their problems in keeping with the best known facts.

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